

Looking back over the 2024/2025 Rotary year, I'm struck by how much we have accomplished as a club. It has been a year defined by committed service and teamwork.

One of the defining features of this year has been the range and impact of our community projects. We celebrated two Paul Harris Fellow presentations, supported Circus Quirkus, volunteered with Riding for the Disabled, contributed to Trees for Families, sold raffle tickets for Hospice, and continued our Meals on Wheels efforts. We also rolled up our sleeves for multiple planting days and working bees at Rotary Park - often joined by members from neighbouring clubs, whose support was invaluable. Our quiz night and cheese roll fundraiser once again demonstrated the enthusiasm and teamwork that define our club.

We also enjoyed the Combined Service Clubs Dinner, speech competitions, and a series of engaging off-site visits. Throughout the year, our meetings were enriched by an inspiring and diverse lineup of speakers, adding depth and variety to our weekly gatherings.

A particular highlight was the Weekend of Connection. This event brought together an extraordinary level of collaboration and showcased just how much Rotary can achieve when we combine our efforts. The work at the park - both on the day and in the many hours behind the scenes - reflected the dedication of our Rotary Park Committee. Their planning, and perseverance continue to move this significant project forward and ensure its impact will be felt for generations.

This year also presented the unexpected challenge of a venue change. While unplanned, the transition has been positive, and the club has adapted.

To the Board - thank you for your leadership, dedication to your portfolios, and patience as I found my way through chairing board meetings. We also acknowledge and thank Peter Jackson, who concludes his time on the Board this year.

Another part of this year that I enjoyed was connecting with the president's from our area about once a month. It was invaluable to have discussions on the challenges and successes we were each having.

I want to acknowledge the following:

1. The Rotary Board

Club Secretary: David Neill,

Treasurer: Steve Hydes,

Trusts Administrator: David Ojala and then Grant Chirnside

Committee Convenors - Brian Daniels (Community projects), Lynne Guy (Management), Jackie St John (Youth) and Peter Jackson (Town and Country), Past President Katie Slaughter, President Elect Neil Lyons

2. The Club Trustees - Alastair Logan, Jackie St John, Don McEwan, Greg Angell, Murray Bayly, John Henderson, and Katie Slaughter.

3. Duty Holders

* Meals on Wheels Co-ordinator - Dave Stewart

- * Speaker Co-ordinator - John Drummond
- * Foundation Officer - Grant Chirnside
- * Speech Competition Co-ordinator Lynne Guy
- * Circus Quirkus Co-ordinator - Bruce Cowan
- * Bulletin Editor - Fiona
- * Cameron Olsen - Duty Roster
- * Trusts awards communicator - Malcolm Liddell

4. The Rotary Park Planning Team: Gordon Tucker, Neil Lyons, Peter Jackson, Jackie St John, Hamish Seaton (Otago Mountain Bike Club) and Rick Wellington.

Finally, to every member of this club: thank you. Thank you for your encouragement, and your willingness to get involved whenever needed. This year has confirmed for me what I already knew - that Rotarians are remarkable people, and that our club is strong and vibrant.

It was an honour and a joy to serve as your President. I am deeply proud of what we have achieved together, and I look forward to seeing what the coming year brings as we continue to serve and grow as Rotary Dunedin.

Committee Reports

Town & Country Activities for 2024 – 2025 Rotary Year.

T&C Safari – this year the Safari was based in Cromwell & organised by Peter Gouverneur. Visits were made to Northburn Stations boutique Winery (Cromwell Rotary member Richard Broadhead is the winemaker), Michael & Janette Hope's Awanui Olive Farm (Michael is a former RC of Dunedin member) and Valda Muller's Organic Walnut Farm. The owners provided fascinating stories of development & production of a quality product.

Rotary Scholarships – 4 scholarships were awarded at Telford & 2 at Polytech's Cromwell Campus.

Midwinter tramp – Malcolm & Neil organised the midwinter tramp to the Motarau Hut on the Kepler Track after a 10yr break, format being a 2hr tramp to the hut, hors d'oeuvres on the beach besides a roaring fire followed by a Christmas dinner in the hut with attendees dressed in their fineries.

Other activities the committee were active participants in Meals on Wheels, cheese roll making, organising marshalling at the Otago Rally, the Rotary Park Project, Rotary Challenge events & club social events.

Management & Membership Report 2024 - 2025

Convenor Lynne Guy

The Management and Membership group has continued to meet monthly over the past year. Its task is to oversee the management and administrative tasks of the club.

It has met on the first Tuesday evening of the month at 5pm in the Duke of Wellington, although it is currently trialling a 'fireside' meeting at 7pm in committee members homes.

The club itself has settled well into our new lunch venue at the Dunedin Community House (DCH) in Princess St, following its move from Petrie Dish at the start of this Rotary Year. Following a 6-month trial, we agreed that we would continue at DCH in the meantime. The members have embraced the BYO lunch option.

Thanks to John Drummond, we have continued to keep members entertained and informed with a weekly schedule of amazing and varied speakers. This has been an extremely well received and deeply appreciated contribution to the club.

John also coordinates off site meetings. This Rotary year we have been to the Marine Studies Centre at Portobello (9th Nov 2024) a visit to the Hillside workshops (27th Feb 2025) and a visit to the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum.

Our group also organises the start-up function to begin the year - Pétanque followed by a BBQ; the Changeover function (4th July 2024); as well as the Christmas festivities at Salmond College 18th December 2024. Changeover this year was organised by Bruce Cowan at the University Club Rooms at Logan Park, and we had a delicious spit roast supplied by BBQ Bill. We also awarded Hamish Seaton with a Paul Harris fellowship for his planning and groundwork on the track development at Rotary Park.

During the year we also awarded a Paul Harris Pin to Edward Ellison ONZM.

Membership tasks have been an important part of our work agenda, and this work has been led by Past Presidents Anna Thomas and Katie Slaughter. Anna facilitated a Combined Service Clubs Celebration Dinner on the 13th of February 2025. This brought together various service groups to celebrate the work they do as well as provide opportunities to network and work collaboratively on projects. 4 local Rotary Clubs along with Lions, Zonta and a Breakfast Club participated. Anna also organised another successful fellowship event ("Fellowship at 5") at Ironic Restaurant on the 12th of September 2024.

A Membership Taskforce has also been set up to focus on strategies for increasing membership.

Our group members have also contributed to the various ongoing club projects, for example Rotary Park working bees, Meals on Wheels, Supermarket Collections etc.

Community Group Report 2024 - 2025

The committee were always in support of club projects such as Rotary Park, plus volunteered for collections with the Salvation Army Red shield Street day appeal and acted as parking wardens for the NZ National track and Field event.

Challenged the T & C group to a clean-up of the West harbour Trail and who could collect the most rubbish .This was part of the Keep Dunedin Beautiful calender.The T & C were slightly better on the day and still hold the Club Committee challenge Trophy .

In late Nov-Dec we collected Christmas food items for the homeless on behalf of the Salvation Army.

A random act of kindness with the support of Rotaract baked 400 biscuits, gift wrapped and with a thank you note were delivered to Blood Service and Hospice volunteers

Many of the team spent two days at the Riding for The Disabled preparing and painting the horse stalls in various bright colours

We supported the Medical School student Volunteers with a day project painting the Rotary Park Gates .A great job and the final visual was commented on how well they looked by the District Governor.

Quiz night was run in March raising approx. \$950

Trees for Families held on Mother's Day in May .The site located in the lower part of Rotary Park was prepared, holes dug and then supported on the day by our volunteers with setting up a Gazebo, assisting families with their plants and in conjunction with the Keep Dunedin Beautiful team along with DDC this is a well-run memorable project to honour families'.

Cheese rolls project ran also in May producing 550 Doz rolls raising \$2481 allocated funds to the Club Hugh Saunders Trust for Youth projects

Other events were 4 Meals on wheels rosters which is 80 days delivering meals

Social event with partners at Xmas and the End of year in celebration along with the Youth Group

A few of us supported the Cromwell Wine tour in February –all very social

The club was nominated by The Keep Dunedin Beautiful group and successful in receiving an award for a commendation in the work done planting trees and support For Trees for Families.

The Community group is a busy team with projects, fund raising, volunteering for support of other charities all mixed with a fair hunk of social commeraderie.I thank them all as they are great team to work and play with

Brian Daniels

Community Group Director

Youth Committee Annual Report 2024/25

Our 2024/25 Rotary year was filled with our regular activities:

- We continued to engage with the Rotaract Club and receive updates on their wide range of activities. We fielded a team for the Rotaract quiz night in August and came a respectable second (pipped at the post by the Community team!).
- Alan promoted the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum and Jackie interviewed for it, with Geordie Stephenson from Logan Park High School being selected to attend the Auckland Forum in January 2025.
- Rick interviewed candidates for Queenstown RYLA. Abigail from Rotaract and Vicci were sponsored to attend RYLA in Jan/Feb 2025. Rick presented at RYLA on his journey in business and what he has learnt over 20 years and Jackie presented on ShelterBox.
- We delivered Meals on Wheels for Age Concern throughout the year.
- We volunteered at Club and District projects like Otago Rally marshalling in April and RYDA in May.
- Rick and Jackie supported Gordon Tucker in his mahi on the Rotary Park committee, and Youthers attended the inaugural Rotary Park planting day and many working bees during the year.
- We formulated plans for fundraising to support Youth projects.

Rotary Youth Exchange remained 'on pause' while the District coordinated with Rotary International to resolve insurance and renew registration. Youthers are ready to step up once the programme is operating again and has a District Chair appointed, as the Club has traditionally been a strong supporter of RYE.

We mixed up meeting times and styles including fireside, online, at a pub, and attendance was maintained by committee stalwarts but sadly there were still several low turnouts and a meeting cancellation during the year. Members are increasingly busy.

Socially many of us enjoyed the festive spirit with a combined Community & Youth Christmas function at Moons in December; attending President Anna's combined service club dinner in February; getting quizzical at Community's quiz night in March; learning about Carole's African Rotary Friendship tour; and dining out at the Spirit House with Community to mark the end of the Rotary Year in June.

My thanks to committee members for their participation and friendship throughout the year as we enjoyed "the magic of Rotary".

Jackie St John - Convenor